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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Thirty-eighth session
Second part
Geneva, 21 April 1992
Item 1(a) of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE SESSION

Provisional agenda for the second part of the thirty-eighth regular session of the Board and annotations to the provisional agenda

I. REVISED PROVISIONAL AGENDA 1/

1. PROCEDURAL MATTERS

   (a) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work of the session;

   (b) Adoption of the report on credentials;

   (c) Provisional agenda for the first part of the thirty-ninth regular session of the Board

2. FOLLOW-UP TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE AT ITS EIGHTH SESSION: Establishment of the terms of reference of the new standing committees and ad hoc working groups

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1/ Approved by the Consultations of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD on 8 April 1992 and circulated in TD/B/L.929, on the understanding that additional procedural items could be added, if necessary, when the Board came to adopt the agenda.

3. INSTITUTIONAL, ORGANIZATIONAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND RELATED MATTERS

(a) New States members of UNCTAD;

(b) Review of the calendar of meetings;

(c) Administrative and financial implications of the actions of the Board;

[To be completed in the light of developments]

4. OTHER BUSINESS

5. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE BOARD.

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL ACENDA

Introductory note

The secretariat's annotations are intended to furnish essential background information covering the provisional agenda items, together with a brief description of the relevant documentation.

Item 1 PROCEDURAL MATTERS

The rules of procedure of the Board are contained in TD/B/16/Rev.4 and Corr.1.

Item 1(a) Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session

Agenda

At its 797th plenary meeting, on 4 October 1991, the Board approved the provisional agenda for the second part of its thirty-eighth session in TD/B/L.924, and authorized the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, in consultation with the President, to adjust and complete the provisional agenda in the light of developments, in particular the eighth session of the Conference.

This arrangement was on the understanding that any amendments or additions would be subject to consultations with representatives of regional groups within the framework of the consultative machinery established by Board decision 143 (XVI) and Board resolution 231 (XXII).

At the Consultations of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD on 8 April 1992, it was decided that, given the priorities laid down by the Conference for immediate action by the Board, and with the exception of some unavoidable procedural issues, the second part of the thirty-eighth session would be devoted exclusively to institutional issues. A revised provisional agenda was approved by the Consultations (reproduced in section I above), on the understanding that additional procedural items could be added, if necessary, when the Board came to adopt the agenda.

The Consultations further agreed that the substantive items which would have been on the agenda of the session would be considered, together with other items to which delegations had drawn attention, for possible inclusion in the provisional agenda for the Autumn session - which would exceptionally be extended as appropriate in order to accomodate the additional items.

Documentation

TD/B/1314 Annotated provisional agenda

Organization of work

As requested by the Board at its 797th plenary meeting on 4 October 1991, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD consulted delegations on the proposed organization of work of the session and will circulate his suggestions theron.

Documentation

TD/B/1314/Add.1 Organization of work

Item 1(b) Adoption of the report on credentials
(Rule 17.2)

"The Bureau of the Board shall examine the credentials and submit their report to the Board."

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Item 1(c) Provisional agenda for the first part of the thirty-ninth regular session of the Board
(Rule 8)

The Secretary-General of UNCTAD will submit during the session a draft provisional agenda for the first part of the thirty-ninth regular session of the Board.

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Item 2 FOLLOW-UP TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE AT ITS EIGHTH SESSION: Establishment of the terms of reference of the new standing committees and ad hoc working groups

In paragraph 64 of the Cartagena Commitment, the Conference agreed that "UNCTAD's intergovernmental machinery and methods of work need to be revised to ensure that all facets of its work programme are fully integrated and reviewed periodically" and specified the objectives which such a process is to serve. Paragraph 65 of the same document states that "UNCTAD's intergovernmental structure shall consist of the Trade and Development Board, standing and special committees, and ad hoc working groups."

Paragraphs 66 to 69 of the Cartagena Commitment define new approaches to the work of the Trade and Development Board and the Board's relationships to its subsidiary bodies. The document states that "the Board will address at one part of its annual sessions a topic relating to the international implications of macro-economic policies and issues concerning interdependence, using the Trade and Development Report as background; and at the

other part it will consider a topic relating to trade policies, structural adjustment and economic reform", and indicates how these and additional topics should be selected for inclusion in the Board's agenda. In that context, the Conference specified that all of the key areas identified in paragraph 63 of the document to "serve as orientations for developing both fresh approaches to long-standing issues and insights for pursuing relevant new lines of work" should be covered by the Board during the period between Conferences. In the same context, the document refers specifically to the Board's responsibilities in connection with UNCTAD's contribution to the United Nations' new agenda for the development of Africa in the 1990s and the review of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the LDCs in the 1990s (paragraph 66). The establishment of specific organizational arrangements for the latter review was also provided for (paragraph 69).

In calling for a strengthening of the policy functions of the Trade and Development Board, the Conference further decided that the Board should meet in short, executive, one-day or half-day sessions at the level of Permanent Representatives immediately before its regular sessions, and periodically in between". The Conference considered that this would facilitate the task of adapting the organization's work to changing world-wide economic circumstances; reviewing work programmes and priorities; promoting greater efficiency; and "reacting to reports from its subsidiary bodies in order to give impetus to ongoing work" (paragraph 67). Finally, the Conference decided that the Board should conduct mid-way between Conferences a review and evaluation of the work programme of the intergovernmental machinery, including its own, of technical assistance programmes, and of the Programme Budget and Medium-term Plan.

Standing Committees

In paragraph 70 of the Cartagena Commitment, the Conference agreed that, with the exception of the Special Committee on Preferences and the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Restrictive Business Practices, whose terms of reference remain unchanged, the existing Committees of the Board should be suspended and standing committees on the following topics be established:

- Commodities
- Poverty alleviation
- Economic cooperation among developing countries
- Developing services sectors: fostering competitive services sectors in developing countries.

The Conference further agreed (paragraph 72) that the present terms of reference of the Committee on Shipping and of the Committee on Invisibles and Financing related to Trade (Insurance) should be included in that of the standing committee on fostering competitive services sectors in developing countries.

In paragraph 73, the Conference called for the terms of reference of the committees referred to in paragraph 70 to be urgently established by the Board, which should complete this task by the end of the first part of its thirty-ninth session.

Paragraphs 74 to 76 of the document deal with the work programmes of the Committees, periodicity and duration of their meetings, and the review of their functioning prior to UNCTAD IX.

Ad hoc working groups

In paragraphs 77 to 79 of the Cartagena Commitment, the Conference recognized that issues emerging on the international scene which have a bearing on trade and development and new or emerging aspects of long-standing problems in that field require, because of their complexity, detailed analysis, examination and reflection; and provided such subjects are precisely defined, agreed that the necessary in-depth exploration and the identification of possible areas of convergence may be entrusted to working groups established for a period of up to two years. This period may be extended if the Board so decides. Core membership will comprise all interested countries, which will nominate the relevant national experts. Other countries may participate in an observer capacity, while provision will also be made for the participation of outside experts in an advisory capacity, as provided for in paragraph 84.

The Conference decided that these ad hoc working groups should report directly, or through the relevant committee, to the Trade and Development Board - which should decide what, if any, further action is needed.

The Conference requested the Board, as an initial step, to establish, for necessary action by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, ad hoc working groups to deal respectively with:

I. Investment and financial flows; non-debt-creating finance to development; new mechanisms for increasing investment and financial flows;

II. Trade efficiency;

III. Comparative experiences with privatization;

IV. Expansion of trading opportunities for developing countries;

V. Interrelationship between investment and technology transfers.

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In paragraph 87, the Conference called for the Trade and Development Board, at its first session following UNCTAD VIII, to take the necessary follow-up measures to ensure the speedy implementation of the above institutional reforms. 1/

Item 3 INSTITUTIONAL, ORGANIZATIONAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND RELATED MATTERS

Item 3 (a) New States members of UNCTAD

On 2 March 1992, the General Assembly admitted nine new States to membership in the United Nations. One of these States (San Marino) is already a member of UNCTAD. The other eight new members are:

Republic of Moldova	(Resolution 46/223)
Kazakhstan	(Resolution 46/224)
Kyrgyzstan	(Resolution 46/225)
Uzbekistan	(Resolution 46/226)
Armenia	(Resolution 46/227)
Tajikistan	(Resolution 46/228)
Turkmenistan	(Resolution 46/229)
Azerbaijan	(Resolution 46/230)

Under the provisions of General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX), these States automatically also became members of UNCTAD, thus bringing the membership of UNCTAD to 179.

Also in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX) (Section II, paragraph 6), the lists of States for purposes of elections, contained in the annex to that resolution, shall be reviewed periodically by the Conference in the light of changes in membership of the Conference, and other factors.

1/ In order to facilitate consultations among delegations, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD has circulated in TD/B(XXXVIII)/CRP.2 a note containing possible elements for the terms of reference of the Standing Committees and the Ad Hoc Working Groups, as envisaged in the final document of UNCTAD VIII "A New Partnership for Development: the Cartagena Commitment".

Item 3 (b) Review of the calendar of meetings

At its eighth session, the Conference approved the provisional calendar of meetings for the period until the thirty-ninth session of the Trade and Development Board (TD(VIII)/CRP.3), on the understanding that the calendar would be subject to further review by the Board at the second part of its thirty-eighth session.

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Item 3(c) Administrative and financial implications of the actions of the Board

The Board will be informed during the session of the administrative and budgetary implications of any proposals before it.

Item 5 ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE BOARD

In accordance with Board decision 259 (XXV), two versions of the report of the Board are prepared: (a) the report of the Board to the General Assembly, containing the resolutions and decisions of the Board and any other material which the Board decides to transmit to the Assembly; and (b) the full account of the Board's proceedings, which constitutes the Official Records of the Board's session.

in-session documentation